

HELPFUL HINTS

Seek & Find

"User Friendly" Titles and Other Government Jargon

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How can I find wage data for an occupation? It seems like it should be easy and straightforward, and for the most part it is, since the data in the table is presented alphabetically. For example, if you want to know the wages for an accountant you would simply look for accountants in the wage table. While most occupations can be found this way, there are a few that are slightly off kilter.

Say you were searching for wage data for a sales manager and a financial manager. Rather than look for each under sales and financial (alphabetical) all the managers are listed together under "manager, sales" or "manager, financial." How's that for government-speak? The same trick is used for engineering occupations. If you search for an occupation and can't locate it, you might try searching on some other descriptive word related to that occupation. For example, if you wanted to

know how much a social worker earns you should think of the type of social work – child, family, mental health, substance abuse, etc. If you search on the descriptive characteristic, you increase the likelihood of finding what you need.

Other occupational titles are more obtuse—such as fast food workers. Believe it or not, you will find them under the occupational title Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food. Now that's a mouthful. While some of the occupational titles may not seem familiar, they are all based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system developed by the U.S Department of Commerce. It contains the occupational titles used by employers in responding to the survey. To help navigate some of these "odd" titles, use the following table to help you in your search.

THE NAME'S THE GAME

If you think this...

Accounting & Bookkeeping Clerks
Admin. Assistants and/or Executive Secretaries
Buyers, Wholesale & Retail
Cosmetologists, Hairdressers, & Hairstylists
Counselors, Education, Vocational, & School
Diesel Engine Mechanics
Fast Food Workers
General Office Clerks
Plumbers & Pipefitters
Psychologists, Clinical, Counseling, & School
Purchasing Agents
Sales Clerk, Retail
Sales Rep., Non-Tech.
Sales Rep., Tech.
Salespersons, Parts
Secretaries, Legal
Secretaries, Medical
Social Workers, Clinical, Family, & Child
Social Workers, Medical & Public Health
Social Wkrs, Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Teachers, Elementary School
Teachers, Middle School
Teachers, Preschool
Teachers, Secondary School

Try This SOC Title

Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks
Executive Secretaries & Admin. Assistants
Wholesale & Retail Buyers, Except Farm Products
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists
Educational, Vocational, & School Counselors
Bus & Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists
Combined Food Prep. & Serving Wkrs, Inc. Fast Food
Office Clerks, General
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters
Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychologists
Purchasing Agents, Wholesale, Retail, & Farm Products
Retail Salespersons
Sales Rep./Wholesale & Manuf, Except Tech & Scientific
Sales Rep, Wholesale & Manuf., Tech & Scientific
Parts Salespersons
Legal Secretaries
Medical Secretaries
Clinical, Family, & Child Social Workers
Medical & Public Health Social Workers
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Ed.
Middle School Teachers, Except Special Ed.
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Ed.
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special Ed.